

The Flame

September / October 2023

September-October 2023

Dear Readers of the Flame,

The New Testament gives us a handful of words from the Father. One of those phrases echoes in my mind from last month's celebration of The Transfiguration of the Lord. It was that message that came out of the bright cloud: ***This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him.*** (Matthew 17:5b)

Listen to him. This is the pathway of discipleship. It is what we are to be about: listening to the voice of Jesus Christ and doing what he says.

Earlier this summer I wrote about the spiritual warfare that we all experience in this fallen world. We may want to be a "conscientious objector" and not enter the fray. However, neutrality is not an option. We are on earth. We have a soul. God wants to save it. The devil wants to enslave it. Our choices make the difference. And the path that leads to salvation is clearly spelled out in that simple phrase: Listen to him.

So just how can we listen to Jesus Christ? The answer may be a bit surprising. The voice of the Lord is most clearly heard in the Church. Jesus said to his Apostles, *Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.* (Luke 10:16) These words of Jesus are reiterated in a variety of ways in other parts of the gospels. (See Matthew 10:40, John 5:23, 13:20, 15:23). Jesus chose that his voice would be heard through the apostles and their successors through the ages.

Part of our learning to listen to the voice of the Lord means having a docility to the teaching office of the Church. Given the scandals of our age, as well as the incessant voices of our times that imply that the Church is archaic, corrupt and an unreliable source of truth, many have given up on the Church as a reliable guide. More than a shame, this is cooperating with the devil's plan to feed our ego, separate us from the Church and lead us away from the fullness of the truth.

Now I do not want to imply that everything that a bishop or the pope has said throughout the ages is affirmed by the Holy Spirit. However, through the ages the Church, guided into the truth by the Holy Spirit (John 16:12-13), has given us a body of teaching that makes clear the voice and teachings of Jesus Christ. This is the backdrop and discernment guide to help clarify hearing the voice of the Lord. **The two main documents that can help us listen to Him are the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Bible.** The better acquainted we are with these documents, the easier it will be to distinguish the voice of Jesus from the voices of the world, the flesh and the devil.

Listening to the Lord also involves personal prayer. Following Christ is not the same as following the directions for a self-assembled piece of furniture. Listening to Jesus Christ means having a deepening personal relationship with Him. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds, transform our hearts and refashion our wills to genuinely love the good, the true and the beautiful.

Though the objective truth of the faith is made clear in the Catechism and the Bible, the habits of our minds and hearts, as well as the many persuasive voices of our current culture, often drown out the voice of the Lord Jesus. Our past wounds, childhood prejudices and habitual thought patterns that reflect our pride and fears can drown out the voice of the Lord. Knowing the objective truth can help us recognize these roadblocks. Personal prayer and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Penance, can help us overcome them.

At times listening to the voice of the Lord involves talking with someone who can help a person discern the voice of the Lord. Sometimes we have lined up our lives with the objective truth of Jesus Christ, yet we find ourselves discerning between two goods. Talking through these sorts of decisions with a spiritual director can help us hear the voice of the Lord more clearly and make choices with greater confidence.

(Continued on page 7)

Catholic Renewal Ministries Events



WANTED - GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Catholic Renewal Ministries is looking for a few new members for the General Service Committee. We meet once a month, usually the third Monday of the month, to discuss plans and events for the Renewal. Members are encouraged to provide ideas for the growth of the Renewal in the Cleveland Diocese, and to provide help as needed. Current committees are: Conference, Prayer Groups, Healing, Hispanic, Program, Music and Word Gifts.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Ken Posavad at 440.319.9646 or kposa@sbcglobal.net

Prayer Group Information

Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group is excited to be able to offer our annual **Life in the Spirit Seminar** again this Fall. The seminar will take place for eight consecutive Tuesdays beginning September 5th from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. We meet in the Primary Building behind Linus Hall at 3644 Rocky River Drive, Cleveland, 44111. The building is handicapped accessible. Please phone Verna at 216-251-3560 or Tom at 216-536-6495 for more information and to register. All are welcome and there is **NO CHARGE** for the seminar.

After the seminar, we will continue our prayer meetings with praise and worship music, moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, sharing witnesses and teachings. Refreshments, fellowship and healing teams immediately follow our meetings. ALL are welcome at any of our meetings! We are also on Zoom. Please phone Tom at 216-536-6495 with any questions.

SS. Cosmas and Damian Charismatic Prayer Group meets every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. in the church gathering area under the Holy Spirit Dove. The prayer meeting is also streamed live on SS. Cosmas and Damian Facebook page. Come and experience vibrant praise and worship, intercessory and healing prayer, and scripture sharing.

Do you want to know Jesus in a deeper way? Are you looking to go deeper in your faith? Come and check out our church community of believers. To contact us or be on the prayer group email list call 330-310-2595 or email dennycarleton@sbcglobal.net

Holy Spirit Prayer Group meets in the Fairlawn and Akron area. For information about dates, times, and locations, please call Jim McGuire at 330-612-5969.

The **Holy Spirit Prayer Group** of St. Mary Church in Hudson is a Charismatic Holy Spirit led prayer group that meets the first and third Saturdays of the each month year around. We meet from 10am to 11:30 am in the chapel. The main focus of our meeting is to praise and worship the living God. We ask the Holy Spirit to minister to us and take us to the heart of the Father. We not only offer praise and worship but also periods of silent prayer to seek and hear God's words and His messages to us. We share words of God, share stories, and offer intercessory prayers for hurting and suffering brothers and sisters.

Our prayer group offers a monthly healing prayer service also. For further information, please contact us at HealingPrayers@stmaryhudson.cc

The Living Word Healing Prayer Ministry at St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick meets face to face on the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in our Chapel.

We allow the Winds of the Spirit to flow over us as we praise the Lord through music, sharing, and group reflection. We allow time for God to open our hearts and minds as we listen to His Word both through Scripture and Word of Knowledge. Every meeting ends with healing prayer as we ask Jesus to come to us in a special way to heal our brokenness and touch us with His Love. All are invited to join us as we praise and worship the Living God!

The **Bukas Loob sa Diyos (BLD)** or in English - **Open in Spirit to God (OSG)**, is a Filipino Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community. While the majority of BLD members are from the Philippines, it also includes other brothers and sisters of many nationalities and heritage backgrounds. We meet every Thursday, at 6:30 pm at the Mary Queen of Peace Chapel, 4423 Pearl Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109. We hold weekly praise and worship service in-person. Also, on the first Thursday of each month, we celebrate a mass followed by a healing service.

We are a communion of families and a community of persons called together as one people through the moment of encounter and a process of renewal to a relationship of faith, hope, and love with God. We conduct marriage encounter programs, solo person encounters, single encounters, family encounters and life in the spirit seminars.

For more information, please contact Rudy and Fe Fontilla at (440) 403-5719 or email: rudyfontilla1975@yahoo.com

The **Community of Praise Prayer Group** meets at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel at Walsh University, 2020 East Maple Street, North Canton, OH 44720. Their prayer meetings start at 6:30 pm on the second Monday of each month. Upcoming dates are: September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11, 2023. For more information contact Don and Rosemary Pfiffner at 330-499-9371 or email: pfiffner67@gmail.com



VISIT US ONLINE:
crmweb.org

Prayer Group Events

The Holy Spirit Prayer Group of St. Mary Church hosts an in-person **Healing Prayer Service** on the **first Sunday** of each month, except in July and September of this year. For those months the service will be held on the second Sundays. The service will be held in the chapel from 12:30-1:30 pm.

Our prayer teams will be available to pray for the healings of your body, body and spirit. Fr. Larry will, depending on his availability, offer an anointing for those seriously ill, preparing for surgery, or weak with aging.

St. Mary Church is located at 340 N. Main St., Hudson 44236, Tel: 330-653-8118. We encourage you to submit your prayer requests to healingprayers@stmaryhudson.cc

The **Living Word Healing Prayer Ministry** at St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick offers a monthly **Healing Prayer** event which takes place in the Church after the 4:30 p.m. Mass on the **third Saturday** of every month. Healing prayer ministers are available to offer prayer for spiritual, emotional, or physical healing. Please join us so that the Spirit of God can touch you with healing love!

Holy Family Healing Prayer Group (Stow) offers **Healing Prayer** after masses the second weekend of the month (Saturday 5:00 PM, Sunday 7:30 and 9:00 AM masses) and after Tuesday and Friday 8:00 AM daily masses. Prayer teams will meet you in the back of the church. If you are

unable to attend one of the masses, we offer private prayer. Private prayer for physical, inner healing and Unbound can be scheduled at your convenience. Jesus is Alive! Come experience His healing power! For information, please call 330-686-0017.

Holy Family Healing Prayer Group (Stow) Classes will begin Monday, September 18th. We meet weekly on Mondays, 10:00 - 12:00 and 6:30 - 8:30 PM, in the prayer room in the back of Holy Family Church, 3179 Kent Rd, Stow. Learn your Identity as a Child of God, Hearing God's Voice and total Healing of the Body, Mind and Spirit. Come, join us and learn about the transforming love of God. For information, please call Mary at 330-686-0017 or email cusack435@gmail.com

Families in Christ Jesus Upcoming Speakers

September 7 Ministry Night – Prayer-Overs

Household meetings are generally held on Thursday evenings. Contact Susan Federico at (tel) 440-290-7859, smfederico78@gmail.com for more info.

Catholic Renewal Ministries will host a **Night of Praise and Worship on Sunday, September 17th, 7 – 8:30 p.m.** at St. Julie Billiart Church. Sanctuary Worship will be providing the music. The church is located at 5545 Opal Street in North Ridgeville 44039. Come join us for an evening of Praise and Worship of our good and loving God!

MAGNIFICAT OF STARK COUNTY, a ministry to Catholic women, invites you to a **Breakfast on Saturday, September 23**, at Walsh University Barrette Center, 2020 East Maple Street, North Canton, Ohio. Please join us for a special time of fellowship and sharing. Sara Schroedle will be our guest speaker.

Cost: \$25 Mail-in/\$26 Online. Visit magnificatstark.weebly.com for more information about our speaker and to make your reservation. For information about reservations or meal requirements, call Sally Kohring at 330-484-1623. Reservations cannot be accepted after September 9th.

Open seating. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. There will be an optional Mass at 8:00 a.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel at Walsh University.

Catholic Renewal Ministries' **Traveling Charismatic Mass** for October will be held at Immaculate Conception Parish, 2846 Hubbard Rd, Madison, OH 44057 on **Friday, October 20th**. Praise and Worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the liturgy will start at 7:30 p.m. Healing prayer teams will be available after Mass for individual prayer. Also there will be light refreshments and fellowship after Mass in the Gathering Room. For more information, contact CRM at 440-944-9445 or Ann Myers at 440-983-1091. Extend an invitation to a friend to join you for this evening of prayer!

Sing and Praise God With Joy! Catholic Renewal Ministries will host a **Healing Mass** at St. Columbkille Parish on **Friday, November 10th, 2023, at 7:00 PM**. The church is located at 6740 Broadview Rd., Parma 44134. Fr. Jamie Mazanec will be the celebrant. Healing prayer teams will be available after mass for individual prayer. After the liturgy, there will also be a social. For more information, please contact Fr. Bob Franco at 440-327-2201 or CRM at 440-944-9445.

THE FLAME IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES FOR THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND.

FR. ROBERT FRANCO LIASON TO CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES.

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Catholic Renewal Ministries Traveling Charismatic Mass

Friday, October 20th 2023

Immaculate Conception Parish

**Praise & Worship 7:00 p.m.
Liturgy begins at 7:30 p.m.**



All are Welcome!

**Immaculate Conception Parish
2846 Hubbard Rd,
Madison, OH 44057**

**Join us for a Social after Mass
in the Gathering Room.
Extend an invitation to a friend to
join you for this evening of prayer!**

Contact:

**Ann Myers 440-983-1091
or CRM 440-944-9445**



**Healing Prayer teams will be available
after Mass for individual prayer.**

crmweb.org



Romans 12:2 "...be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."

**Our Lady of Angels Prayer Group invites you to a
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR**

This seminar will focus on the movement we know as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal – a renewal that all the Popes from Paul VI to Francis have given their support and approval. If you desire more for your life, this seminar can be the beginning of a ‘renewal’ of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The seminar presentations for the eight weeks will prepare participants for the prayer of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We have already received the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. This prayer is a new, refreshing renewal of the Holy Spirit’s gifts for your life and helps you to surrender more fully to our Lord Jesus. To support you to live out this new life, we offer our weekly prayer meeting – joining with like-minded people in our prayer group.

Where? Our Lady of Angels school, Primary building
(behind Linus Hall) – handicapped accessible
3644 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH 44111 – there will be signs!

When? Eight consecutive Tuesdays, beginning September 5th
through October 24th, 2023.

Time? 7:30 – 9:00pm (refreshments will follow)

For more information and to register please phone
Verna at 216-251-3560 or Tom at 216-536-6495

There is NO charge for this seminar.

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May the Lord grant us the grace to always keep the end game in mind. We have an immortal soul. God wants to save it. The devil wants to enslave it. Listening to the voice of Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, the One whose truth sets us free (John 8:32) is the path home. Doing what He says will not be easy. However, listening to Him brings joy to our souls, peace to our lives and blessings to those we serve.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob Franco.



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